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AFGHANISTAN: THE MILITARY SITUATION

I. The Soviets have made no appreciable progress against the Afghan insurgents this year.

A. They launched many small sweep operations but made no lasting gains.

B. The only two large Soviet clearing operations also accomplished little.

-- In June, the Soviets drove insurgents from the Konar Valley to prevent the collapse of Afghan Army units there. Within a month the insurgents had regained control of most of the valley.

-- In September, to relieve pressure on supply lines north of Kabul, the Soviets attacked in the Panjsher Valley, but withdrew quickly. Attacks on convoys resumed almost immediately.

C. The Soviets are having increasing problems protecting their supply lines from insurgents armed with mines and anti-tank rockets.

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-- Despite increased security measures their losses continue to be high.

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D. Perhaps the only encouraging note for the Soviets is the success of their "combat groups"--units of company size or less that began raiding insurgent bands in June.

-- The "combat groups" attack specific insurgent bands that have been located by intelligence; in the past, the Soviets generally just tried to clear an area, fighting whatever insurgents happened to be there.

-- The combat groups rely mainly on surprise, often attacking at night; in the past the Soviets relied on their superior firepower.

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II. The Afghan Army remains generally ineffective even when operating with Soviet troops.

- A. Its only major offensive, in Paktia Province last spring, ended with government forces besieged after several units defected.
- B. The strength of combat units continues to decline.
 - Men forced into the army by press gangs often desert in a few weeks.
 - An effort to reenlist about 385,000 reservists has so far netted less than 20,000 men, many of them likely to desert.
 - The enlistments of veterans have once again been extended, and this will probably lead to more desertions and mutinies.

III. In contrast to a year ago, insurgent morale seems high.

- A. They are better armed and more experienced, and they can point to many minor victories, especially against Afghan troops.
 - Egypt, China, and Pakistan have provided modern weapons, including mines, antitank rockets, mortars, and small arms, mostly Soviet-designed. Iranian help has been primarily from private organizations, not the government.
- B. The area under insurgent control increased during the year.

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C. Insurgent bands are staging more joint operations, and

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D. Prospects for unifying the resistance, however, remain dim.

-- Few leaders are willing to put themselves under the command of another.

-- There have been a growing number of clashes between insurgent bands--most the result of efforts by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's Hizbi Islami to eliminate its rivals. (Chart showing six main exile groups)

-- The fragmentation of the resistance complicates insurgent supply operations and almost precludes any large, coordinated operation, but it also denies the Soviets a single target to attack.

E. The insurgents still lack an adequate counter to Soviet airpower, despite some success with machineguns against Soviet helicopters.

-- We have a few reports [REDACTED] that they have fired anti-aircraft missiles, but all missed. [REDACTED]

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MAJOR AFGHAN EXILE ORGANIZATIONS

Organization	Leader	Political Goal
Hizbi Islami (Islamic Party)	Gulbuddin Hekmatyar	Strict Islamic rule without the Royal Family
Hizbi Islami (Islamic Party)	Younus Khalis	Government by the Koran
Jamiat-i-Islami (Islamic League)	Burhanuddin Rabanni	Islamic Government possibly led by the King
Harakat-i-Iqilab (Revolutionary Islamic Movement)	Mohammad Nabi	Fundamentalist, but specific goals are vague
Mahaz-i-Milli- Islami National Islamic Front)	Syed Ahmad Gailani	Secular republic with King as figurehead
Jabha-i-Najat-i- Milli (Afghan National Libera- tion Front)	Sibghatullah Mojadedi	Islamic Republic under the King.

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